THE PAPISTS PLOT OF FIRING DISCOVERED,

IN

A Perfect account of the late FIRE *in*

Fetter-Lane, LONDON;

The Tenth Day of *April* last.

Whereby it plainly appears who are the Instruments of this Work;

As also the Rewards they are to have; and what would be the Dismal Effects if this firing trade had gone on.

Published by way of Caution to all Masters of Families to beware what Servants they entertain into their Houses.

Rom. 3. 15. *Their Feet are swift to shed blood.*
16, *Destruction and misery are in their wayes.*
17. *And the way of Truth they have not known.*
18. *There is no fear of God before their Eys.*

Reprinted *Anno* M D C L X X I X.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
MAY 26, 1913
SUBSCRIPTION FOR
ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

THE

Papists Plot

OF

FIRING

DISCOVERED;

In a Perfect Account of the late

FIRE in Fetter-Lane.

MR. ROBERT BIRD, whose House it was that was set on Fire, informed, That his wife retained one *Elizabeth Onley* to be her Servant (supposing her to be a Protestant) upon Monday the 24th. of *February* last, but she came not to her Service until the 6th. of *March* after. That upon wednesday night the 9th. of *April*, about two or three of the Clock in the morning, the said Servant came to his bed-side and awaked him, telling him *There was a Fire in Holbourn:* whereupon he asked her, How she knew it? She answered, By the noise in the Street, whereupon he arose, and look'd into the Street, but there was little noise or light; so he staid

ſtaid at his Street-door, until he was informed by two men that paſſed by, that there had been a Fire, but it was put out again: whereupon he returned to Bed, well pleaſed he had ſo watchful a Servant, and fearful of Fire: But none of his Family heard any thing thereof, until informed by the ſaid *Oxley*, as he believeth. That on *Thurſday* the 10th. of *April* he was told, the ſaid *Oxley* went not up to Bed till about a 11 a Clock: That before he went to Bed, he looked to the doors, windows, and Rooms, to ſee if all were ſafe from fire and Thieves, (as his cuſtom was) and was the laſt up in the Family, as he thought. That being in Bed and a ſleep, about 12 of the Clock that night he was a waked, with a great beating at the door by the watch, and the ſaid *Oxley* coming immediately to him, told him, *There was a Fire*: To which he ſaid. He was ſure it was not in his Houſe, but gave her the Key of the ſtreet-door; who ran down, and let in the Watch and company; and he coming down, found a large Preſs in his Cloſet (for keeping Books, Papers and Writings) on a light fire, but by the mercy of God, and the great help he had, the Fire was put out, and his houſe preſerv'd. That his wife with ſome Neighbours immediatly going to the ſaid *Oxley*'s Lodging Room to ſee if all was ſafe, found that ſhe had packed up her Clothes and things ready to carry away, and her Trunks Lockt up, but nothing left in them of value: whereupon he demanded of the ſaid *Oxley* why ſhe had packed up her Cloths? ſhe anſwered, that ſhe and his other Maid *Martha* had packed up her thing to ſave them. Then he asked the ſaid *Martha* why ſhe had packed up in that time when the Lives of the Children and Family were in that Danger; who poſitively denyed that ſhe packed up any thing: Whereupon, and for that he was ſure when he went to Bed there was not a ſpark of Fire in the Cloſet, and conſidering that the ſaid *Oxley* at the firſt knocking at the door, though ſhe lay two pair of ſtairs

above

above his Chamber; and being informed that she had not put out her Candle into the Candlestick, nor burnt it, but pulled it out, and hid the Candlestick; and from the manner of her Carrage used when she perceived she was suspected, he positively Charged the said *Oxley* with Firing his House, and caused her to be kept safe all that night: And the next day being Charged by Neighbours with Firing the House, she at last Confessed the same, by setting the Press in the Closet and his Papers on Fire about Twelve of the Clock when he and his Family were a sleep. And he said, that she the said *Oxley*, might have gone out at a Back Door of his House and carryed away any of his Goods and Plate, if she pleased at any hour in the night, without Firing his House, the Key of the Back Door lying in the Kitchin, and laid there by her self. And he said nothing of value was found in the said *Oxleys* pack made up by her as aforesaid, but her own things.

Elizabeth Oxley upon her Examination said; that about *Michaelmas* last she became acquainted with *Nicholas Stubbs*, who had several times used many perswasions to turn her Papist; and after her shewing a liking to it, and that he supposed she embraced that perswasions in his Discourse to her at several times, he told her, that before the 28*th*. of *June* next, she should see all the Protestants destroyed that were in *England*; that the *Pope* should be King over *England*, that all that would turn to the Popish Religion should live far better then now they did, that all the Land were Hereticks, and it were a Meritorious Act to destroy them, and that all such as were Papists should have *Marks* upon their Hats whereby to distinguish them from Protestants, that they might not be destroyed amongst them; Adding, that the Nation do believe that all things will be over before the 23*th*. day of *June*, but they would be deceived, for all should be destroyed at or before that time. That the Duke of *York* was the bravest Prince living, and

that

that he was gone out of the Kingdom least the Hereticks should cut off his head, and he would not return till they were destroyed; that the Lords in the *Tower* would not one of them suffer, for they would come off well enough, being to be tryed by the Lords, & that the Scaffolds were set up but for fashion sake. That she telling the said *Stubbs* that she was Hired to Live with one Mr. *Bird* about the middle of *Fetter-lane*, he used perswasions to her at several times to set fire on her Masters house; telling her, if she would do it, he would give her 5 *l.* and gave her, half a crown, and said, he would have other Houses in *Holbourn* Fired at the same time by others: that she being with the said *Stubbs* on *Sunday* before the said Fire, promised to fire her Masters house on *Thursday* or *Fryday* night following, and accordingly on *Thursday* night she took a Candle & set Fire to her Masters Papers in his Studdy which were in a kind of a Press; & they being on a Light Fire, she shut the the doors & went up Stairs into her own Chamber in the Top of the House, & packed up her own things, and undressed her self, least her master should suspect her and there stayed till a great Knocking was at the Door, and the watchmen crying out Fire, whereupon she run down Stairs and cryed out Fire, and her Master gave her the Keys to open the Door; which done, all hands were imployed to quench the Fire. And she saith, she did not set on Fire her masters house out of any malice to him, nor with intent to Rob him, but meerly to carry on the design which *Stubbs* had proposed to her, and out of hopes of his reward.

Nicholas Stubbs upon his examination, owns, and sets forth to have used such discourse to the said *Elizabeth* as she declareth in her Examination; and saith, he did perswade her to fire her masters house, and was to give her five Guineys for doing it, besides half a crown in hand, & saith that one Father *Gyfford* a Priest & his Confessor had

put

put him on this busines, and told him it was no sin to Fire all the Houses of *Heretick*, and *Hugonites*. That he acquainted *Flower* alias *Darby* a Barber in *Carman street*, and one *Roger* another *Irish* man that lodged at the Coach and Horses in the same street. That the said Father *Gyfford* promised him 100*l*. for the same, and told him he was to have the money from the Church. That they used to meet the said *Gyfford* & other two persons in *St. James fields* in the dark of the Evening, & to discourse of these matters; and that the several informations that he had given the said *Elizabeth Oxley*, he had from the said Father *Gyfford*; and saith *Flower* and *Roger* told the said *Stubbs*, they would carry on the said Fire, and that they had fire Balls for that purpose, & that they would Fire other houses in *Holbourn* at the same time: That he was at the fire in the *Temple*, but was not ingaged to do any thing in it. And said, that *Gyfford* told him that there were *English French* and *Irish* Roman Catholicks enough in *London* to make a very good Army; and that the King of *France* was coming with 60000 men, under pretence to shew the *Dauphin* his Dominions; but it was to lay his men at *Deep*, *Bulloign*, *Callis* and *Dunkirk*, to be in an hours warning to be landed in *England*, and he doubted not but it would be by the middle of *June*, & by that time all the Catholicks here will be in readiness; all were to rise in order to bring him in. That the papists here were to be distinguished by marks in their hats; that the said Father *Gyfford* doubted not but he should be an Abbot or a Bishop when the work was over, for the good service he hath done. That at their meeting Father *Gyfford* used to tell them, it was no more sin to kill a Heretick then a dog, and that they did God good service in doing what michiefs they could by Firing their houses. That it was well Sir *Edmundbery Godfrey* was murthered, for he was their Devilish Enimy; That *Coleman* was a Saint in Heaven for what he

he had done, and ſaith, he is fearful he ſhall be Murthered for this Confeſion, Father *Gyfford* having ſworn him to ſecreſie, and told him he ſhould be Damned if he made any Diſcovery, and ſhould be ſure to be Killed; and that he ſhould take the Oaths becauſe he was a Houſe-keeper, and that it was no ſin: And ſaith, that *Gyfford* and *Roger* told him, when their forces meet about the middle of *June* then have at the--

FINIS